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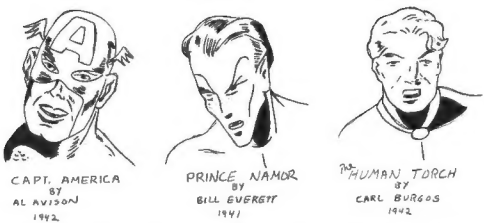

The Timely Comics Story

BY Raymond Miller

In late 1939, when many of you younger readers were not even born yet, the third giant of the costume and super hero type comic made it's debut. This was the publisher of the Timely Comics Group, later to be knowns as Marvel Comics Group, then Atlas, and once again today as The Marvel Comics group. This "special" covers the first two, Timely and Marvel, for the years 1939 to 1949.

National had been publishing costume heroes for over a year now and Fawcett, Fox, and a few others were just starting, but only Timely and Fawcett would rank #2 behind the leader, National. While Timely did not have the number of titles DC had, they did have almost as many costume heroes and many more than Fawcett. In one form or another, their three greatest heroes, Capt. America, Human Toroh, and Sub-Mariner, are still around today.

Since Timely had over a dozen titles between 1939 and 1949, I will discuss each title, one at a time, as they first made their appearence.

The first comic Timely published carried the title MARVEL MYSTERY and the first issue was dated Nov., 1939. Number 1 introduced three of Timely's best costume heroes--The Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, and The Angel. Two of them were destined to become two of the most famous comic heroes of all time.

The Torch was created by a Dr. Horton and was not a real human at all. He was to be an android but due to a mistake, he became a flaming man. I use the word "man" because his original identity as an android was lost almost before it began. At first the Torch had no control over his flame but before the first story was over he was able to control it. (For MMMM the complete story of the original Toroh see THE ROCKETS BLAST #18 or THE ROCKETS BLAST-COMICOLLECTOR ANNUAL #1) His pal Toro, joined him sometime later, about issue 18. Two of the best known Toroh artists were Carl Burgos, his originator, and Jimmy Thompson, who drew most of the Robotman stories for National. Even Mike Sekowsky of JLA "fame" drew a few HT stripes. Toroh's last appearence was in MARVEL MYSTERY #92.

At the same time Burgos was working with his 'fireman', Bill Everett was working on his water baby, Prince Namor--The Sub-Mariner. Namor also began in #1 and last appeared in #91. SM was the son of Princess Fen of Atlantis and an American Naval Commander McKenzie. The Alantean army was going to attack the surface people and the Princess was sent to seduce McKenzie but fell in love with him instead. The day the Alantean army was massed to attack, McKenzie began blasting away at an ice pack, and as a side result of this the Alantean army was destroyed. Angered at what McKenzie had done Princess Fen leaped over board and returned to Atlantis where, much later, Prince Namor was born. When he became a young man his mother told him how the surface people had destroyed the Alantean army and he swore he would wipe them out. He tried time and time again but always failed, usually because the Toroh was there to stop him. When World War II began, Namor joined the Allies and his original aim was lost forever.

The 3rd member of MARVEL MYSTERY's big three was the Angel. He did not last as long or have m the appeal of Toroh and Namor, nevertheless he was one of Timely's leading heroes for many years. He appeared in over 80 issues, including #1. Originally, The Angel was drawn by Paul Gustavson, a great name in the comics of 1941-42. The Angel had no secret identity and whether he was in a dress suit or his famous red and blue costume, he was still called The Angel. He was one of the very few heroes that sported a mustache. Many of his stories were of the weird or horror type, complete with ghosts, as shown in issue 28. He even graced the covers of MARVEL MYSTERY #2,6,3,8,12. Most of his stories ended with the mysterious shadow of the Ange.

Another good costume hero that appeared in #13 to about 18 was the Vision. He was the inhabitant of another dimension and entered our world through the element of smoke and departed the same way. Wherever there was trouble, out of the smoke of a fire, or even the smoke of a match, would come the Vision--bald head, green face and all--to battle evil. I believe that most of the early stories were drawn by Simon and Kirby.

The Patriot began his career in MARVEL MYSTERY #21, with no origin. He was really Jeff Mace, a reporter for Consolidated Press. His costume underwent minor changes during his stay and he disappeared after issue 74.

During 1944 a female Captain America made her debut in the pages of MARVEL MYSTERY. She was called Miss America and was a good character, one of the better ones to appear after 1943. She first made her appearence in issue 49 and lasted until the 85th issue. Madeline Joyce was eager to help the poor and oppressed so she was gifted with 4 strange powers to help her fight against evil; the power to fly, the strength of a thousand men, x-ray vision, and the wisdom of the ages.m Through time, though, all her powers were forgotten except her ability to fly. In the later 40s she began wearing glasses and this was some change; from x-ray vision to wearing glasses. Miss America also ran a few serial type stories in later issues.

MARVEL MYSTERY was rounded out through the years by Terry Vance, the Schoolboy Sleuth and his pet monkey Dr. Watson from around #10 to about 58; Electro, The Marvel of the AGes--a robot commanded by Prof. Zog--in #4-19; Jimmy Jupiter in the Land of Nowhere, #28 to about 48; Za-zar in issues 1-27. Also in a few issues were American Ace and Masked Raider. In later issues we find Capt. America--80-84,86-92; Young Allies--7-83; Blonde Phantom 84-91; Sun Girl 88-90. MARVEL MYSTERY died after #92. Issue 93 was called MARVEL TALES and contained all horror stories.

Two months after the highly successful MARVEL MYSTERY came out, Timely unveiled another title, called DARING MYSTERY (note that both titles contained 'mystery'). DARING was never the comic MARVEL was and I

believe it had to fight to stay alive because it took 6 years to publish 12 issues. How it made it to #7 is beyond me. DARING MYSTERY #1 was dated Jan., 1940 and the only story of note carried a costumed character, Fiery Mask, written by Joe Simon. The Fiery Mask proved so "popular" that he didn't make his 2nd appearence until the 5th issue. Some of the other characters that were in the first 5 issues were; Monako, Prince of Magic; The Falcon, which would have a made a good costumed hero; The Purple Mask; Marvex, the Super Robot; Breeze Barton, and about a dozen others. Issue 6 was more of a one shot in that only The Falcon was carried over. Besides him, it also contained Marvel Boy, Stuperboy, Flying Flame, and Dynaman.

With #7 a big change came in the DARING line up, all new characters were introduced. No Timely collection is complete without issues 7 and 8 (note; I have no info on #9). One picking up a copy of #7 back in 1941 would see a cover with no less than 5 costume heroes staring them in the face. The lead story featured The Thunderer (he was also in 8). He was done by Carl Burgos and John Compton. The opening lines read, "We give you...THE THUNDERER, Mighty enemy of all those who would deprive us of those principles we hold so dear:..Liberty, Justice, and Equality." These words are backed up by the red and blue figure of the Thunderer standing over the U.S. Capitol. The first story takes place in Washington D.C. and starts in the German Embassy where German agents are planning the initial plan of the conquest of America (This was almost a full year before Germany was at war with the U.S.). Suddenly a low rumbling roar fills the room and enter "The Thunderer," who in 11 thrill-packed panels wipes out the Germans and leaves them to the F.B.I. Then we find out, in the following pages, who The Thunderer. He's really Jerry Carstairs who works for the F.O.C. and is also an amateur radio operator with his own ham radio station. A quick change finds Jerry putting a combination mike and horn set around his neck and donning a red and blue costume and with his voice thundering through the mike and horn, he is now "THE THUNDERER!" This character, under the name of the Black Avenger, was in ALL WINNERS #6.

The next new hero in #7 was The Fin by Bill Everett. In this story a submarine wrecks and all aboard perish except a young US Naval Cadet named Lt. Peter Noble. After escaping from the doomed sub, Peter finds himself in an underwater kingdom dominated by green creatures with wings and a human bodies. Soon he is in mortal combat with their leader and wins and then becomes their master. (These creatures did not appear in #8) Noble then adds a costume and a shark's fin and becomes The Fin. Like the Sub-mariner, he spent most of his time in the water and in #8 he battled "The Barracuda."

The Blue Diamond was another to debut in the 7th issue. While on a expedition in the Antarctic, Prof. Morrow discovers a great blue diamond. While taking it back to America the expedition ship is torpedoed and the diamond is blown to bits with hundreds of tiny particles of it being lodged in Morrow's body. After being rescued he discovers his body is now as hard as steel and he has great power, so, enter The Blue Diamond. He was also in #8.

The Silver Scorpian (#7&8) was Betty Barstow, another newcomer to DARING. The costume Betty wore was originally to be used for a masquerade ball but Betty ended up a costume heroine before she even got to the party, so she decided to remain a mystery fighter. #7 also had Mr. Million, a non-costume hero that didn't belong and didn't stay for the next issue.

#7 was rounded out with Capt. Daring, a Buck Rogers type character, who also appeared in #8. And last, and perhaps the most famous hero to come out of DARING, The Challenger, the master of a thousand weapons. He challenged criminals to a duel with whatever weapons they wanted to used and beat them at their own game. Although he was only in DARING #7 he did move over to MYSTIC and was in 5 issues of that comic. He was replaced by Citizen V in #8. Citizen V worked in Europe and wore a brown army-type uniform and hat, yellow gloves, and a V emblem on his chest.

The remaining issues featured Sub-mariner (10-12), Human Torch (10-12), Angel (10), and The Destroyer (#11). #12 was the last issue.

The next title from Timely was MYSTIC COMICS. And like DARING was from the bottom of the barrel. I will not go into much detail on the first four issues. MYSTIC was to be a monthly companion to MARVEL but between March, 1940, date of #1, and March 1941 only 5 issues were published. The first four issues contained only fair stories and some of the art wasn't that good. Some of the better features were Flexo, the Rubber Man, which wasn't bad; and Blue Blaze by a writer with a great imagination and an artist with none. These issues were filled out with Daker, Master Magician; 3X's; Deep Sea Demon; Taxie Taylor; Thin Man; Hercules; Dynamic Man, and others.

The first sign of a change in MYSTIC came in issue 4 when Timely introduced The Black Widow. She was Claire Voyant, a young woman who was murdered and became Satan's ambassador. She was able to return to

the mortal world as the Black Widow and her very touch meant instant death to evil doers. This was a good feature but only lasted SIXISSUES until issue 7. She wasn't in #6 so that left only 3 issues for this blonde haired beauty with the skin tight black costume with red cape and boots.

With #5 came the big change in MYSTIC. All features that were in the first four issues, except the Black Widow, were dropped, and in their place....The Black Marvel--young Dan Lyons was this hero clad in black. When the chief of the Black Feet Indians died, they needed a new chief but none of the braves could pass all the tests. Along came Dan, and presto--he passed them all and he was indeed a Black Marvel. He last appeared in #9.

Another new feature was the Terror. A stranger had an automobile accident near the home of a scientist who was experimenting on a mad dog. To save the strangers life he injects the blood of the mad dog into the injured man. Because of the wreck the man remembers nothing of his past. After that he was an ordinary human except when crime was near--then his features would change and he would become the awesome Terror. He appeared in #10.

Next was The Blazing Skull, a real life Mark Todd. With his red costume and skull mask he fought the Nazis. He was last in #9. Number 5 also featured the adventures of Super Slave; Sub-Earth Man; and Moon Man. These 3 did not go past #5.

With issue 6 came MYSTIC's first big star, the Mighty Destroyer. Keen Marlow, ace newspaper man stationed in Germany, is an American and no enemy to MGermany (This was before we entered the war) but he is part English and because of this he is imprisoned. In prison he meets a dieing professor who was working on a formula to help Germany's soldiers. But he died before Keen Gets out and was thrown into jail, into the same cell as Keen. He told Marlow what he did, gives him the 'super liquid'--Keen drinks it and becomes more powerful than any human. He vows to destroy the Germans as the Mighty Destroyer. Issue 6 contained two of his stories, while #7-10 had one each. He was on all the covers from 6 to 10. Also new in #6 was the Challenger, who movedw over from DARING, and he last appeared in #10.

Two new features startedw in #7-- The Witness and Davy & The Demon. The Witness was to last three issues, and had no costume in #9. Davy & The Demon was a serial type story which had young Davy fighting the giant Demon. Davy had mistakingly set the Demon free and vowed to destroy him and in the last story, in #10, it seems he did.

Another change came in the last issue, #10. It featured The Destroyer; Worldm of Wonder, which was about 2 boys in a magic city; Fatherthing, a character that was in many CAPTAIN AMERICA comics; Davy & The Demon; Red Skelston, a red-headed comic writer; The Terror; and The Challenger. The date of issue 10 was Aug. 1942. I believe MYSTIC was at its best with 6-8.

With their 4th title, Timely left the variety type format to bring out the Torch in his own comic, HUMAN TORCH QUARTERLY. This was in the fall of 1940 and besides the star in #1, there were The Falcon; MExroman; Fiery Mask; Mantor the Magician; and last but not least, Namor, who lasted for 32 issues. In #2 Toro was introduced. It is told that Toro, his fathermy and mother were taking a train ride in the country. In their car they rounded a curve they were unaware that a log was on the track and the train crashed, killing both his parents. A SIXISS circus train stops nearby and a man and woman try to stop Toro from running into the fire of the wrecked train, but to no avail. Toro gets away from them and heads for the train that is in flames but it is too hot for him and he faints, but in his hand he is holding a piece of molten steel. When Toro comes to, the man and woman ask him about the steel and he tells them that fire never hurts him AA and that he used to pull MMMM baked potatoes out of the fire for his gang. Toro then joins the couple in the fire-eating act in Pop's Traveling Circus. Two

later Toro is attracted by the gay colored tents of the circus and as he nears the grounds he sees Toro, who is now called "The Fire-Eating Boy," topple from his stand with his body ablaze. Instantly Torch subdues the boys' flames. Then he notices that Toro's body is not burned. Torch then taught Toro how to use his mind to mentally turn his flame on and off and from that time on they remained a team. The story never did tell how or why Toro got the power of fire nor did it ever tell of any other name for him. He was always referred to as the boy or son until Pop Cower (of the circus) gave him the name of Toro. He had freckles in the first story.

HUMAN TORCH COMICS ran 35 issues plus 3 more in the mid-fifties. Three of the original issues -- 5,8,10 -- contained the famous battles between Torch and Namor.

After two slow starts with DARING MYSTERY and MYSTIC, Timely finally found a true monthly companion for MARVEL MYSTERY in CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS. March, 1941 was a milestone in comics because that was when Simon & Kirby's AMERICA #1 hit the stands. Actually it was a couple of months earlier but that was the cover date. Capt. America was to last 10 issues under Simon & Kirby, and another 68 issues under other artists. Cap came into being when Cap Steve Rogers was injected with a new serum which turned him into a strong-man, not super strong--just strong. (For the full story on Capt. America see RB #13 or the RB--CC ANUAL #1) Bucky, his young pal, also made his debut in the first issue. Capt. America was, in my opinion, one of the best comic heroes ever created.

Some of the other features that appear in CAPTAIN AMERICA through the years were Tuk the Cave Boy; and Hurricane, the last decendent of the ancient Greek immortals, who had returned to Earth to fight his ancestrial enemy Pluto the devil. In CA #3 he defeated Pluto but decided to stay on Earth and fight crime. In every day life he was known as Harry Kane, and Hurrican appeared in issues 1-11. Another costume hero born in CA COMICS was Fathertime. Even though he was created by Simon & Kirby in #6, they never did draw him. Even the first story while even stating it was a S & K creation, was drawn by Al Avison. Larry, the son of the executed Harry, racing against crime, was able to prove his innocence but his father was executed minutes before he could get the proof to the warden. To Larry, it seemed that time was always on the side of the crooks. So he became Fathertime to show the crooks that time can work on the law too. He appeared in CAPT. AMERICA #6-12.

Also in CA were; Headline Hunter (1-11); The Imp (12-15); The Secret Stamp--Roddy Colt (13-27); The Human Torch (19,21-78); In CA #66 Cap's new partner, Golden Girl, was created. She was Cap's old girl friend Betty Ross.

Now it was Namor's turn to have his own comic so in the spring of 1941 Timely came out with SUB-MARINER QUARTERLY #1. Bill Everett was the artist in only a couple of issues and again in the issues published in the mid-fifties. Also in SM #1 was the Angel. The Blonde Phantom was in 26-31, Human Torch 33-36,w and The Young Allies in #22. In all, there were 42 issues of SUB-MARINER COMICS published.

In the summer of 1941 Timely introduced two new titles, ALL WINNERS and YOUNG ALLIES. ALL WINNERS was to run 21 issues and both were dear to Simon & Kirby's heart. #20 of ALL WINNERS was dated Summer, 1941 and contained 12 pages each of Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, Angel, Black Marvel, and 13 pages of Capt. America. All were on the cover of #1, along with Bucky and Toro. The Angel and Black Marvel were quickly replaced in the 2nd issue by the Destroyer and the Whizzer. Capt. America was done by Simon & Kirby in the first two issues. Cap and Namor were in every issue and the Torch was in all except 14-16. The Destroyer was in 2-20 and The Whizzer in 2-21 except 6 and 12. In #6 a character called The Black Avenger replaced the Whizzer. The Black Avenger was a Japanese spy who Thunder later called Jerry Carstairs and his costume was almost the same except for the color. Miss America also had her chance in ALL WINNERS, which was in 19 and 21. These two were the issues where the Human Torch, Capt. America, Miss America, Whizzer, Sub-Mariner, Bucky, and Toro teamed up and were known as the All Winners Squad. These two issues were patterned after DC's famous group, The Justice of America. Issues IN 19 & 21 are two of the most wanted issues because of the Squad.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
NO. 58
SEPT.
COMICS
DRUG
BAN

The TERROR 1941

The DESTROYER
1941

The BLAZING SKULL '41

HURRICANE '41

FATHER TIME '41

The VISION 1941

About the time ALL WINNERS #1 made its debut, a number of Timely comics carried an ad for a new comic called ALL ACES. In three years of trying I have never been able to find anyone that had ever seen a issue or knew of anyone that had, so I will go on the assumption that ALL WINNERS replaced it even before it came out. Can anyone bear this up?

The other new title for the summer of 1941 was YOUNG ALLIES. They were the creation of Simon & Kirby. To kick off their first adventure they battled Capt. America's greatest foe, the Red Skull. The Young Allies had made their appearance before in Capt. America stories but at the time, they were only minor characters and their names were not mentioned. They were just known as the Sentinels of Liberty and maybe a few of you readers out there might have belonged to Cap's Sentinels of Liberty at one time. EVEN in Y.A. the Young Allies were referred to as Bucky and the Sentinels of Liberty. In the same issue that Toro made his first name and Buck introduced himself to Toro as the leader of the group. But Toro said, "Well, I'm the leader now." This caused a fight between Bucky and Toro, which left a bitter feelings between the two for many issues to come and every so often in the first 6 or 7 issues they even came to blows over who was best. I guess you could call this a junior version of the Toroh-Namor fued. But through it all, Bucky was always recognized as the true leader of the YA, which consisted of Bucky, Toro, Percival O'Tooley-better known as Knuckles, Jeff Sandervilt, Whitewash Jones, and Henry "Tubby" Tinkle.

In #1 they fought the Red Skull in 6 thrill-packed chapters and it took the help of the Torch and Capt. America to defeat him. Cap and the Torch made only a brief appearence in this issue. Issue #2 saw the YA, with Cap and Toroh again, fighting with the Black Talon, whom Cap and Bucky first met in CAPTAIN AMERICA #9. With #2 Stan Lee became the Editorial and Art Director. My favorite Young Allies story was in the 4th issue, which was one of the best action-packed comic stories ever published. This was also one of Al Gabriele's best pieces of art. The episode began where a story in CAPTAIN AMERICA #16 left off. In that issue we saw the Red Skull falling to his death after Cap had defeated him in a battle that took place on the wings of a plane high above the earth. But in YOUNG ALLIES #4 we saw that he had a hidden parachute under his suit, and was saved. Unlike other YA stories that were broken up into chapters, this story was told in 45 continuous pages. Both Capt. America and the Human Torch played big parts in this story and even Cap's girl friend, Betty Ross, had a major part. While THE YOUNG ALLIES LASTED some 20 issues, #1 through #11 will always remain my favorites.

Another character in YOUNG ALLIES COMICS 7-19 was Tommy Tyme. Tommy had found a magic clock, known as the Clock of the Ages. Whenever he wanted to go back in time he just set the clock to the time he wanted to go to and presto, he was there. He even fought the Battle of Bunker Hill in YA #8 and we learned that it was really Tommy who uttered those famous words, "Don't shoot til you see the whites of their eyes." After losing the clock ring and Tommy would once again be back in the present. Also in two issues of YA were the Vagabond (#4) and Bethertime (#5).

Timely's last comic to contain all new heroes was USA COMICS. #1 was dated Aug. 1941 and introduced some really fine costume characters. The cover and lead-off feature was The Defender, who never had an origin, but it was stated that as long as the United States was in trouble there would always be a Defender. The Defender (Don Stevens) and his young pal Rusty were featured in 18 pages in the first issue. They lasted through #4.

The most famous costumed character to come out of these pages of USA comics was the speedy Whizzer. His origin was in #1 was a scant 6 pages in length. While in Afric Dr. Emil Frank injects the blood of a mongoose (a very speedy animal) into his son Bob after slowly watching him die because of a need of a blood transfusion. It saved him but the ordeal was to much for the Doctor and he died. Bob then discovers he has the power of speed and he returns to New York where he dons a costume and take costume and takes up the fight against crime as the Whizzer. After #1, he appeared in #2,4,6,8-12,14-17.

Another origin story in the first issue was that of Mr. Liberty, who was really John Liberty, professor of American History. While reading the paper one night, which tells of the gruesome war in Europe, Liberty says America needs the spirits of old to battle the enemy and a leader to lead them. Suddenly a ghostly figure appears and changes him into "Mr. Liberty." He thens leads the spirits of America into battle. In issues 2-4 he is called Major Liberty. He last appeared in # and was on the cover of that issue.

Another character that was in 1-4 was Stan Lee's Jack Frost, whose touch would freeze anything, and because of his strange appearence he was always being hunted by the police. But he was able to stay out of their hands and still fight crime. Also in #1 was the green olad Young Avenger, who never made it to #2.

Issue 2 introduced Capt. Terror. It seems that he was supposed to have been killed in a war in Spain but we know he wasn't. Dan Kane preferred it that way and he let the world believe he was dead. But now with the world at the brink of war Dan Kane once again became Capt. Terror. The first story was 17 pages long. He appeared in issues 2-4 and on the covers of 2 and 3. In #4 he had a slightly different costume.

Also in #2 was the Vagabond, or as he preferred to be called, Chauncey Throttlebottom III. His real name was Murphy but I can't say if that was his first or last name. His costume was that of a hobo but don't let that fool you because--like the Mauntied Police of Canada--he always got his man. He was in 2-4 and was drawn by Win.

Issue 3 was sort of a one shot affair in that it was different from 1-4 and 6-17. #5 contained the Victory Boys, American Avenger, Sarg. Dix, Gypo the Gypsy Giant, Roko the Amazing, The Fighting Hobo, The Blue Blade, and the Black Widow. #5 was dated Summer, 1942.

A new format started with #6. Capt. America was made the cover and lead-off feature. In my opinion this is the only reason USA COMICS last 17 issues. Cap was in 6-17 and was backed up by the Terror Squad (#6), The Whizzer (#6,8-12,14-17), The Destroyer (6,8-14,16,17), Jeep Jones (6-9,12,13), Sarg. Dix (6,8-16), Mr. Buster Johnston (6-15), Capt. Daring (17), and Dirk Eyes, Marvel Boy, Secret Stamp, and Thunderbird, all in #7.

By now Timely had reached the top and the following months would see many of their characters disappear. In fact, by mid 1942 Timely would have more heroes in the land of limbo than most of the other publishers would have on the newsstand. By mid 1942 Timely had only about 10 costume heroes left and this was far cry from the number of heroes they had in '41 and the first few months of '42. But still, Timely tried two new titles '42. One was an imitation of their highly successful YOUNG ALLIES This comic was called TOUGHH KID SQUAD and #1 was dated March, 1942. The leaders of the Tough Kid Squad were Wally and Tom Danger, who were Twins. Soon after the twins were born, their parents died and the boys were adopted. One was to live a clean normal life and the other was brought up on the wrong side of the tracks. Years later, during a high school dance, they met and became good friends and with their other friends--Butch, Eagle and Derrick-- the Danger Twins formed the Tough Kid Squad.

Also in this issue was the Flying Flame. He was a airplane pilot, not a costume hero. Also appearing in this issue was the Human Top, fastest Human alive. He was another Flash-Whizzer imitator, and he got his speed by twisting his body like a top. As far as I have been able to determine, this was the only issue of TOUGH KID SQUAD.

In late 1942 Timely brough out KID KOMIX #1, Feb. 1943. The first issue introduced Capt. Wonder and Tim, his young sidekick. Prof. Jordan and his young friend Tim Mulrooney were in the Professor's lab where he had just invented a wonder drug which would make a man stronger than a dozen men. While wondering what exactly to do with it, Jordan dropped the vile of drug and it exploded and he was overcome by the fumes which filled his lungs. Tim quickly cleared the labw of the fumes and seconds later

the professor began to feel his muscles grow stronger. With the blood now in his body saturated with the drug he has the strength of a dozen men, so he adds a costume and becomes Capt. Wonder. A couple of pages later, Tim also dons a costume. Capt. Wonder and Tim were also in the second issue and appeared on the covers of both issues.

Also in #1 were Knuckles and Whitewash of the Young Allies, Trixie Trouble next, then Pinto Pete, followed by Subbie (a younger version of the Submariner), Breezy and his Glider Patrol, And last "Flip" Flap Flop (The Flying Flash) by Basil Wolverton. Both Pinto Pete and Subbie were in the 2nd issue also. All then Young Allies were in the 2nd and all remaining issues--and in the 3rd one they took over the lead story and cover. The Vision was also in #3, as was Jeep Jones and Red Hawk. Jap Buster Johnson, Tommy Tyme, Sargeant Dix, and The Destroyer were featured in most of the other issues. The Whizzer was in the last issue, #1, which was dated Summer, 1946.

One year later AMAZING COMICS made its appearence and #1 was dated Fall, 1944 but it was to last only three issues. Inside its cover we had a 3-part story featuring The Young Allies, the Whizzer, The Destroyer and Sargeant Dix.

About the same time, the second MYSTIC COMICS made it's appearence (#1, Oct., 1944). With this comic The Angel was given a break and made the main feature as well as the cover feature for the first 3 issues. In fact, most of those issues contained two Angel stories each. Like the original MYSTIC, the new version also had the Destroyer and he was the only character to appear in all 4 issues. Also in MYSTIC was the Human Torch (1,2), Tommy Tyme (1-3), Terry Vance (1,2), and once again The Young Allies took over a comic and replaced all but the Destroyer in the 4th issue, and they were also covered featured on that issue.

Next came ALL SELECT COMICS, which was nothing more than another ALL WINNERS, but not as good. The art wasn't much to talk about and the first two issues had bad Sub-Mariner artwork. One bright spot was Capt. America's battle with The Red Skull in the second issue. ALL SELECT #1, Fall 1943, featured Capt. America, Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, Black Widow, Jeep Jones, and an illustrated war story. Capt. America appeared in 1-10, as did the Torch; Sub-Mariner 1-5,10; Whizzer 3-5,7; The Destroyer 6,10; Black Widow 1; Jap Buster Johnson 2,8,9; Jeep Jones 1,2. The 11th issue featured 2 Blonde Phantom stories, 1 The Mysterious Mr. Wu, and 1 Miss America.

With the 12th issue the title was changed to BLONDE PHANTOM COMICS, was dated Winter 1946, and it had 3 Blonde Phantom stories and 1 Miss America. Sub-Mariner was in the 15th and most of the remaining issues, which ended with the 19th. The Blonde Phantom was really Louise Grant, who worked for the Mark Mason Detective Agency. BLONDE PHANTOM COMICS was about the last comic Timely (now called Marvel Group) dropped that had a costume hero. Its last issue was dated March, 1949, only 3 months before MARVEL MYSTERY died and 7 months before CAPTAIN AMERICA.

In late 1948 Marvel brought out SUN GIRL COMICS and NAMORA COMICS. Both were to last only 3 short issues and were dated Aug., Oct., and Dec., 1948. Sun Girl was in many Human Torch stories after Toro had been dropped and Namora was Prince Namor's girl for a number of years. With these two titles a colorful era in comics came to an end.

ADDITIONS FROM THE FIRST PRINTING: MISS FURY COMICS -- Miss Fury was a "sometimes" costume heroine who appeared in 8 issues of her own comic. Her origin was in the first issue which came out in 1942 and all 8 issues were by Tarpe Mills. Miss Fury appeared in costume in #1-3, in #4 on the first and last page only; in #5 the first section of the comic; and #6-8 only on the covers. Her alter ego was Marla Drake. Her costume was blue and black and covered her entire body except for her face, which was covered by a mask similar to Batman's.. She also wore a cape that was red on the outside had had a blue lining.

COMPLETE COMICS: This one had The Young Allies, Destroyer, etc. It started off with #2 so it could have been a change of title with #1 being AMAZING.

Rockman, underground secret agent, came from the subterranean world of Abysmia, beneath the North American Continent, and he began his short career in USA #1. His job was to fight the enemies of the free world and this he did in 1 thru 4, with #4 being his last appearence. The story in #3 was written by Stan Lee.

Unlike most publishers, Timely used a symbol on their comics for only a few months in 1942 and then the Marvel emblem in the late 40's. But in their heyday their comics did not carry any emblem or name on the covers. Even in 1941 all of the comics in this group were not published under the same name. For instance, USA, ALL WINNERS, & YOUNG ALLIES were published by USA Comics Magazine, and so on. Still, it was more the characters themselves that identified Timely or any of its other names than it was the publisher itself.

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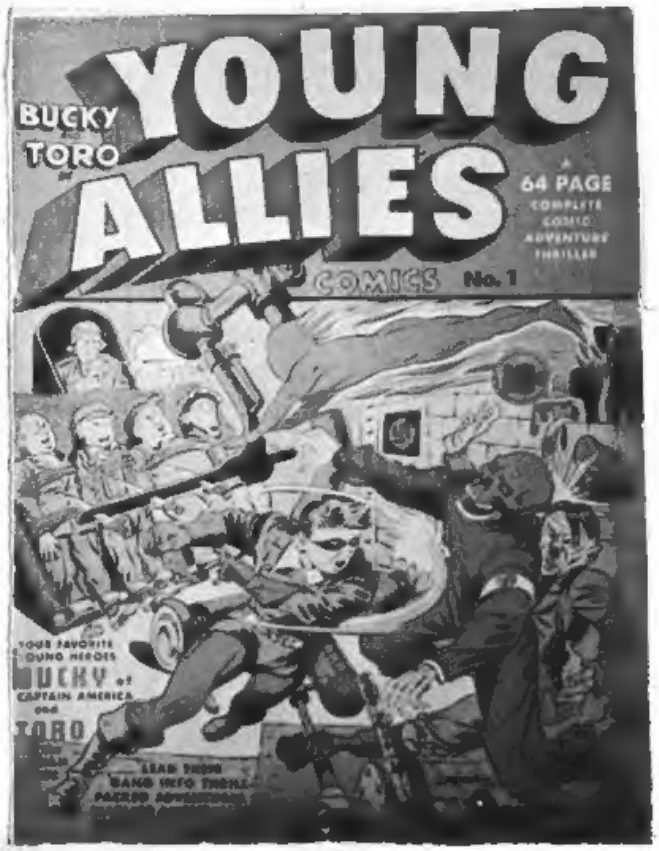
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